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December 22, 2005

Mr. J. I. Palmer, Jr., Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

RE: December 2005 Early Action Progress Report

Dear Mr. Palmer:

South Carolina continues to be committed to the 8-hour Ozone Early Action Process. Partnership opportunities have been developed and the awareness of local officials about air quality issues has resulted in proactive, voluntary and regulatory actions that would not have occurred without the Early Action Compact (EAC) process. In South Carolina we continue to see activities that remain a part of the EAC process, above and beyond that required of an area with a "traditional" nonattainment designation.

Data from the EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) reveals South Carolina's continued attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard. The table in Enclosure 2 gives the 4th highest 8-hour averages for each of the 21 monitors for the years 2003, 2004, and 2005 as well as the current three-year average. These numbers are based on data validated through July 31, 2005. Once all of the 2005 data has been verified any necessary updates will be provided. No violations of the 8-hour ozone standard are expected.

South Carolina EAC's identify "key" milestones that are required for the continued deferral of the effective date of nonattainment designations and also milestones that track the progress being made by the state and local areas toward adoption and implementation of emission reduction measures. The attached document includes the table provided by EPA's guidance document of October 17, 2005, for each participating county identifying each of the local measures included in their respective local early action plan. Information regarding stakeholder meetings and other activities that have occurred since June 2005, as well as specific details documenting the progress toward measures included in the local early action plans is included for each county and is grouped by the following areas:

Appalachian: Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg
Catawba: Chester, Lancaster, Union, York
Pee Dee: Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro
Waccamaw: Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg
Santee Lynches: Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter
Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester: Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester
Low Country: Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
Lower Savannah: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Orangeburg
Central Midlands: Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland
Upper Savannah: Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, Saluda

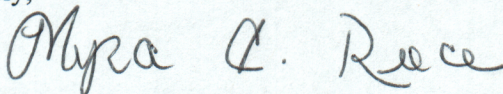
A table identifying statewide activities and progress made toward each is also included as well as information regarding a number of future activities that the state is involved with such as the planning of an EAC Summit to be held in 2006, car care activities for the month of April and the Southeastern Diesel Collaborative. South Carolina looks forward to working with EPA and other stakeholders in these future activities.

South Carolina also committed to an annual review of growth (highway mobile and stationary NOx sources) to ensure emission reduction strategies and growth are adequate as well as identification and quantification of federal, state, and/or local measures indicating sufficient reductions to offset growth estimates. The Departments' review found that for both areas designated nonattainment with the effective date deferred, the actual emissions were lower than the forecasted modeled data and the 2004 VMT was well below the action trigger. Additionally, the local and state transportation plans for the deferred Nonattainment areas shows a tremendous decrease in emissions over the next 25 years. Detailed information with supporting graphs is enclosed.

The Department continues to be pleased with the energy of the participants in the EAC process including counties, agencies, universities, organizations, businesses, industries and environmental groups. The continuing effort of these groups is a marvelous example of partnerships in many directions. Each of these diverse parties has come together for a worthy common goal of providing cleaner air sooner to the citizens of South Carolina.

Thank you for the continued assistance and support EPA has provided in this process. We look forward to continuing to work with EPA and other stakeholders as we implement measures to achieve cleaner air sooner for our citizens. Should you have questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 896-8940 or Myra Reece, Chief of the Bureau of Air Quality at (803) 898-4123.

Sincerely,



for/ Robert W. King, Jr., P.E.
Deputy Commissioner
Environmental Quality Control

Enclosures

cc: Kay Prince, EPA Region 4
County Officials (no attachments*)
Ron Methier, GA Dept. of Natural Resources (no attachments*)
Keith Overcash, NC Dept. of Environmental and Natural Resources (no attachments*)
Myra Reece (no attachments*)
EQC Regional Directors (no attachments*)

*All those not receiving attachments will be notified when materials are placed on our website.

South Carolina's Ozone Early Action Compact
December 2005 Progress Report
Enclosures
December 22, 2005

1. December 2005 Progress Report Document
2. 3-Year Ozone Average Summary to Date, AQS Data
3. South Carolina's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
4. Local EAC Activities for Participating Areas
5. Statewide EAC Activities